

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated December 18, 2003, the Examiner objected to the Specification to update the related application information; rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wakai et al.; rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noda et al. taken with Wakai et al. The Examiner also rejected claims 46, 50 and 51 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

Applicants respectfully submits that only claim 1 was currently pending at the time of the Office Action. Thus, Applicant assumes that claims 46, 50 and 51 should be replaced by claim 1. Moreover, Applicant has canceled claim 1 by this Amendment, rendering moot all rejections of claim 1. Applicants have added new claims 18-29. Thus, claims 18-29 are pending in this application.

Each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Should the Examiner deem that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496 - 7413.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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